

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

July — September 2009

<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/resources.html>

Celebrating 233 Years of Independence

This July 4th marked the 233rd birthday of the United States of America. Every year, American families and friends gather on this day to celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress. It is a time to show appreciation for the United States by wearing the colors of the flag, singing the national anthem, and reflecting on the basic premise of what unites Americans, love of country.

As we commemorate U.S. independence, we also join in celebration as India gears up to celebrate its national day, August 15th. President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton have stated, on several occasions, the importance of strengthening the partnership between India and the U.S. In recent years our two countries worked together on a variety of issues to build a strong strategic partnership. Secretary Clinton's visit to India on July 17-21 reinforced this relationship. At the "Synergy's Summit" on June 17, Secretary Clinton mentioned several platforms of cooperation: global security, human development, economic



Fourth of July fireworks reflect off the granite wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a revered landmark in Washington. In the background is another iconic structure, the Washington Monument

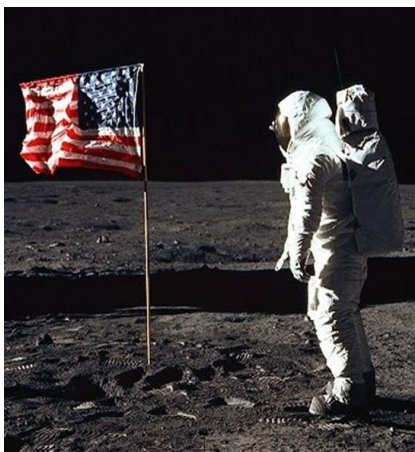
activity, and science and technology. By working together, the U.S. and India can advance solutions to the challenges we face to enhance global prosperity and stability in the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton stated that: "Both our countries emerged from struggles against colonialism to become proud, independent democracies. And both are living proof that people espousing different faiths, speaking different languages, and traveling different paths can unite and form nations that are greater than the sum of their parts."

It is with this positive outlook that we, at the American Library, continue to endeavor to provide a meaningful service in south India. With this in mind, we invite you to visit the American Library to explore our resources or come on Saturdays to watch a movie with your family and friends.

Ragini Gupta
Acting Public Affairs Officer

A Giant Leap for Mankind : 40th anniversary of the Lunar landing

July 20 marks the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing. Eight years of hard work by thousands of Americans had its fruitful results when Apollo 11 Commander Neil Armstrong stepped out of the Lunar Module and took "one small step" in the Sea of Tranquility, calling it "a giant leap for mankind" on July 20, 1969.



Apollos 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 -- went on to land on the Moon, studying soil mechanics, meteoroids, seismic activity, heat flow, lunar ranging, magnetic fields and solar wind. Apollos 7 and 9 tested spacecraft in Earth orbit; Apollo 10 orbited the Moon as the dress rehearsal for the first landing and Apollo 13 Mission was successful in spite of an oxygen tank explosion. More details on the 40th anniversary of Apollo can be found at <http://www.nasa.gov/apollo40th>



The American Library
U.S. Consulate General
Gemini Circle, Chennai 600 006
Phone: 044-2857-4223
Fax: 044-2857-4307

Reference: chennairefdesk@state.gov
Circulation: chennaicircdesk@state.gov
M.K. Jagadish, Director

**Library Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Saturday**

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America the Beautiful

by Katherine Lee Bates

The poem was published on July 4, 1895 in the church publication *Congregationalist*.

O beautiful, for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful, for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw;
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful, for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine!

O beautiful, for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
from sea to shining sea!

Resources on Independence, Democracy and Constitution

Books

American Revolution: Writings from the War of Independence. Library of America, 2001 (973.3 AME)

America's Constitution: A Biography by A R Amar. Random House, 2005 (342.73029 AMA)

Economic Liberties and the Constitution by B H Siegan. Transaction Publishers, 2006 (343.7307 SIE)

Securing Democracy: Why we have an electoral college, Edited by G L Gregg II. ISI Books, 2008 (324.63 SEC)

The Spirit of Democracy: the struggle to build free societies throughout the world by L J Diamond. Times Books/Henry Holt and Company, 2008. (321.8 DIA)

Articles

"Deliberative Constitutionalism" by John J Worley. Brigham Young University Law Review. Provo: 2009. Vol. 2009, Iss. 2; pp 431-481

"How Smart and Tough Are Democracies? Reassessing Theories of Democratic Victory in War" by Alexander B. Downes, International Security, vol. 33, no. 4, Spring 2009, pp. 9-51

"Nation to Nation" by Jose Barreiro. American Indian, Spring 2009, pp. 52-56

"What does it mean to be an American?" by Sarah Song. Daedalus. Boston: Spring 2009. Vol. 138, Issue 2; pp 31-42.

Video Programs

United States Constitution (2004). Combines the insight of American Political Science experts on the interpretation of The Constitution with live action and documentary photography to explain and amplify the most important document in American society.

United States Bill of Rights and Constitutional Amendments (2004) 2 Parts. When the Constitution was written certain framers insisted on adding basic legal protections to ensure individual rights. As a consequence the first 10 amendments, also known as the Bill of Rights, were added to clarify the rights of the citizens of the United States of America. In this video these amendments are laid out in very easy-to-understand language. In addition, this video includes all the subsequent amendments made to the Constitution of the United States through the present. These include such important national issues as slavery, prohibition, and the extension of voting rights to all citizens.

Understanding Government (2000) 3 Parts. This Film shows how the Founding fathers created division of government to establish the separation of powers which protects citizens from capricious or tyrannical actions of the government to this very day.



Students at the Library for an Orientation

MEMBERS' CORNER

We thank our patron Mr. G.S. Ravi Shankar for responding to the April/June 2009 Newsletter.

"I am much delighted to go through your library newsletter April-June 2009, the first ever newsletter received at our door-step, what a welcome initiative! I enrolled my daughter during January, 2009 at your stall in the Book Fair. Keeping the Library open full day on Saturdays is a great boon to the students, as well as to the general public. This extended working day becomes invaluable to the student community. It is so very convenient to the employed to visit the library during the weekend. I earnestly hope and trust that this valuable extended facility will bring in wider membership as it affords invaluable access to your excellent facilities.

Your newsletter made me to reminisce my past association with the library, when I was a student during 1971-1973, and I was immensely benefitted as a member, borrowing several valuable books for my curriculum study as well as for my hobby-reading relating to American Life and Culture. I also attended good number of film shows. This prompted me to enroll my daughter as a member after a lapse of 36 years! Through my daughter, I am able to access excellent books at times, which throw light on latest global developments, broadening the horizon of one's perceptions giving enhanced perspectives and promoting critical and creative thinking on the present-day fast-moving global trends."

Librarian Picks:

Books

Barack Obama: An American Story by Bob Carlton and Ariele Gentiles. Zondervan, 2008 (973.932 OBA)

Environmental Law by K L Schroeder, Thomson, 2008 (344.73046 SCH) Different perspectives on environmental regulations are explored, and the book provides a current and applicable approach to the area of environmental law.

A Woman in Charge: a life of Hillary Rodham Clinton by Carl Bernstein. Thomson Gale, 2007 (973.929 CLI). Biography about Hillary Rodham Clinton's life and career.

Women's Rights: Issues on trial edited by J Karr. Thomson, Gale, 2008 (342.730878 WOM). Examines the passion and depth of Women's Rights, and how the courts have helped to shape the issue through their rulings.

Videos

Business Ethics: Truth in Advertising. 28 minutes. Films for the Humanities and Sciences. This program examines how truth in advertising has gotten lost in the competitive frenzy, and how consumers can learn to separate fact from fiction in the confusing barrage of hype and half-truths.

Human Trafficking. 180 minutes. Echo Bridge Home Entertainment. A DVD on human trafficking and sexual slavery. It follows the fictional cases of young women around the world, lured or abducted, sometimes right off the street, into a world of unspeakable brutality--which the filmmakers show in almost overwhelming detail at times.

Labor Day

Labor Day, dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers, is observed on the first Monday in September. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Online Information Resource



From business and political science to literature and psychology, ProQuest Research Library provides one-stop access to a wide range of popular subjects. It includes more than 3,850 titles—over 2,600 in full text from 1971 onwards. It features a mix of scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, and newspapers. ProQuest Research Library consists of a core list of periodicals, plus 15 supplemental subject-specific modules, including: Arts, General Interest, Law, Sciences, Business, Health, Military, Social Science, Children, Humanities, Multicultural, Women's Interest, Education, International and Psychology.

Saturday Film Matinee

Please check your email or the library webpage (<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/satmatinee.html>) for the movie of the week.

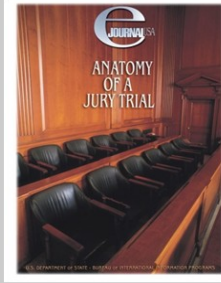


Consular Officer Mark Mishkin interacting with the Business Management Students from Indian Institute of Planning Management during a discussion on Global Financial system.

Electronic Journals

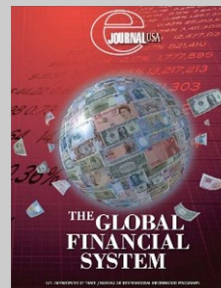
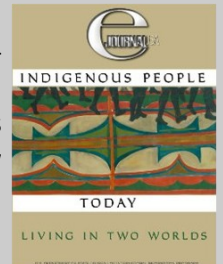
All eJournals are available online at:

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>



Juries, usually groups of 6 or 12 ordinary citizens, provide a crucial service for their fellow citizens: Just as in medieval England, where they got started, juries prevent government, even democratic governments, from pursuing oppressive prosecutions.

An insight into Native Americans and other indigenous peoples in America. Articles provide historical background and look at issues surrounding their languages and culture, their legal status, and how they are networking around the world.



Experts describe the mechanics of the global financial system presenting their views concerning the cyclical nature of markets, the interdependence of global trade relationships, and the role of regulation

American Library Marks Gay and Lesbian Pride Month



The month of June was Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, a time to rededicate ourselves to the elimination of violence and discrimination against people based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The American Library had a book display of works of literature by some outstanding gay and lesbian writers like Truman Capote, Gertrude Stein, Susan Sontag, Tennessee Williams and Alice Walker – along with some excellent nonfiction, such as *Stonewall* by Martin Duberman. The library also displayed a poster exhibit on the history of the LGBT movement in the United States